



August 2006

Groundwork USA® “Extreme Green Makeovers”
One Big Day of Changing Places and Changing Lives

Taking their cue from television, volunteers in nine cities changed “reality” in their neighborhoods during a one-day flurry of cleaning and greening, all part of the Groundwork USA® “Extreme Green Makeover.”

Over 320 volunteers provided 1,349 hours of service to transform sites in their neighborhoods.

The range of projects reflected local priorities, such as:

- Building a new outdoor classroom in Bridgeport, CT
- Beautifying a business district in Elizabeth, NJ
- Planting sunflowers to clean-up contaminated soil in New Orleans, LA
- Cleaning up and landscaping neighborhood open space in Concord, NH
- Installing native landscaping demonstration gardens in Gary, IN
- Renovating a playground, community garden and recreation facility in Yonkers, NY



“Extreme Green” celebrated the 2006 signature partnership of Groundwork USA and AmeriCorps*NCCC. Read on for details from several “Extreme Green Makeover” sites!

A Restoration Victory

World War I Memorials Preserved by NCCC and Groundwork Minneapolis

Minneapolis, MN (June, 2006) – Just in time for Memorial Day, an important step in the restoration of Victory Memorial Drive was completed last month.



As the Nation’s largest World War I memorial, the 3.8-mile parkway features a tree and memorial plaque for every serviceman or nurse from Hennepin County killed in the First World War.

An AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team located and edged the 561 stone memorial markers so that each can again be seen.

In addition, half of the markers needed to be lifted and re-set, as they had sunk into the ground or tilted over the years. The team also encouraged about 30 neighbors, veterans and other interested people to “adopt” individual memorial plaques.



The NCCC team was sponsored by Groundwork Minneapolis, which has an ongoing partnership with the National Park Service through its Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program. Other

partners in the memorial project included the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the Victory Neighborhood Association, and several veterans' groups.

The Victory Drive markers project was just one of 14 projects that the AmeriCorps/NCCC team tackled for Groundwork Minneapolis during a six-week May/June visit. In other projects, the team planted 1400 tree seedlings, 1130 perennial native plants, and 81 flats of flowers. The team also cleaned up debris, removed invasive plants, and landscaped about six acres of land. The team worked with upwards of 300 community members and 22 agency or organizational partners on these projects.

For more information, contact Holly Larson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, at holly_larson@nps.gov or 651-290-3003.

Dallas Makes Forest Park More Welcoming

Trails Blazed by Groundwork Dallas and NCCC Youth Corps

Dallas, Texas (June, 2006) – On National Trails Day, Groundwork Dallas and a traveling AmeriCorps team celebrated the results of a successful partnership at the Buckeye Trailhead. Groundwork Dallas hosted a nine-person youth corps from the AmeriCorps/National Civilian Conservation Corps for a two-month stint in Dallas.



While the AmeriCorps team was stationed there, they helped Groundwork Dallas complete work on three miles of new and existing trails and several trailheads in the Great Trinity Forest. This park embraces a large bottomland forest, but it lacks public amenities for visitors. The AmeriCorps team, along with volunteers recruited by Groundwork Dallas, landscaped the trailhead at the Buckeye Trail by planting native shrubs and other vegetation, installing decorative fencing, and planting needed shade trees.

The National Park Service has been assisting Groundwork Dallas as it launches a new organization dedicated to expediting community-led greenspace improvement projects throughout Dallas' Southern Sector. The Service's RTCA program has helped the local Groundwork steering committee obtain Groundwork USA Pilot Program funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfield Program.

Groundwork USA and the National Civilian Conservation Corps developed a partnership in 2006 in which the thirteen Groundwork trusts are given priority in securing NCCC teams. For more information on the Groundwork Dallas project, please contact Kathryn Nichols, NPS Community Planner, at kathryn_nichols@nps.gov or 512-916-5161.

More Woods are Good for Havenwoods Neighborhood

Urban Community Gets "Extreme Green Makeover"

Milwaukee, WI (June 2006) – Groundwork Milwaukee, in partnership with the Havenwoods Business Improvement District (BID), carried out a one-day beautification blitz by planting shade trees and shrubs at residences in the Havenwoods area of Milwaukee.



National Park Service staff worked with residents and BID representatives to develop planting schemes and assist with implementation, along with residents, AmeriCorps/National Civilian Conservation Corps members, and BID representatives.

This small project leveraged \$1000 in cash and matching in-kind labor to improve the landscaping of seven residences, with

additional “Extreme Green Makeovers” planned for the fall.

The NPS partnership with Groundwork Milwaukee is coordinated through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program. For more information contact Mark Weaver at mark_weaver@nps.gov or 414-297-3617.



About Groundwork Trusts and Groundwork USA

Groundwork Trusts are independent, not-for-profit, environmental businesses that work with communities to improve their environment, economy and quality of life through local action by getting local people, businesses, government and other organizations involved in practical projects.

The Groundwork model holds that people, places and prosperity are inextricably linked, and local Trusts work to develop projects which bring benefits to all three areas.

For people – creating opportunities for people to learn new skills and take local action

For places – creating better, safer and healthier neighborhoods

For prosperity – helping business and individuals fulfill their potential

The Groundwork USA network is built on partnership and linked together by the Groundwork USA national office, with support from the Environmental Protection Agency’s Brownfields Program and the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.

For information on the Groundwork Trusts, or assistance in starting a new one, contact Douglas Evans at Douglas_Evans@nps.gov, 617-223-5124 or <http://www.groundworkusa.net/>

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